

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-01 /027 W  
----- 091655

P R 280600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9003

INFO AMCONGEN LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ETRD, PK

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY: GSP  
ELIGIBILITY

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 25721

(B) ISLAMABAD 1490  
(C) STATE 41429

1. SUMMARY. US AND PAK-BASED UNITED PRESBYTERIAN (UP) CHURCH OFFICIALS CALLED ON ECON COUNSELOR TO REPORT THEIR CURRENT ATTITUDE REGARDING NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH SCHOOL PROPERTY. DURING THE MEETING, THEY WERE INFORMED OF THE NATIONALIZATION-GSP PROVISIONS OF THE 1974 TRADE ACT, AND THAT FORMAL APPROACHES ON THIS WERE BEING MADE BY THE DEPT. TO UP MISSION HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY AND BY CG LAHORE TO THE UP MISSION OFFICE IN LAHORE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB. 27 THE EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR WAS PAID AN UNEXPECTED VISIT BY A UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICIAL FROM THE USA, AND TWO SENIOR UP MISSIONARIES FROM LAHORE. THESE WERE: DR. FRED WILSON, DIR. OF THE SOUTH ASIA LIAISON OFFICE, UP CHURCH IN THE USA (NEW YORK CITY); REV. ROBERT TEBBE, DIR. SIALKOT MISSION OF THE UP CHURCH (SENIOR UP MISSIONARY IN PAKISTAN); AND IRVIN G. LOTZE, PROPERTY MANAGER FOR PAKISTAN, UP CHURCH IN THE USA.

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3. DR. WILSON SAID HE WISHED TO REVIEW THE PROPERTY PROBLEMS HIS MISSION WAS EXPERIENCING WITH THE GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE 1972 NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH SCHOOLS, THE PAKISTAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HAD ASKED THAT THE PARENT US UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOT GET INVOLVED IN GOP-CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROPERTY PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH TITLE TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TAKEN-OVER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WAS IN THE NAME OF THE PARENT AMERICAN MISSION. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WISHED TO HANDLE THESE PROBLEMS IN ITS OWN MANNER AND FELT THAT FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT WAS UNNECESSARY AND MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

4. THIS ATTITUDE HAD NOW CHANGED. THE PAK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BELIEVED IT HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE WITH THE FEDERAL AND PUNJAB PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OVER THE ISSUE OF MAINTAINING SIGNIFICANT CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN THE TAKEN-OVER CHURCH SCHOOLS. THEY FELT THAT GOP WAS NOT HONORING THE WRITTEN AND ORAL PROMISES MADE BY BHUTTO AND EDUCATION MINISTER PIRZADA TO PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN 1972, AND THAT CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AND PRESENCE IN THE FORMER CHURCH SCHOOLS WAS BEING STEADILY ELIMINATED. WILSON ADDED THAT THERE WAS AMBIGUITY AS TO THE REAL INTENTIONS OF PAKISTAN FEDERAL AND PUNJAB PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS REGARDING LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF THE TAKEN-OVER CHURCH SCHOOLS. THE INDICATIONS WERE HOWEVER OMINOUS, FOR THE CHURCH DID NOT REALLY HAVE FREEDOM TO DISPOSE OF ITS PROPERTIES AS IT WISHED.

5. WILSON WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS PRESENT UP CHURCH POLICY NOT TO SEEK MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR TAKEN-OVER CHURCH PROPERTY, INCLUDING THE NEW GORDON COLLEGE CAMPUS. NEVERTHELESS, THE UP CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO HELP MAINTAIN A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN THESE SCHOOLS, DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE CHURCH'S CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY ASSETS (WORTH \$15 MILLION) TAKEN AWAY, AND YET ALSO DID NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD PROVOKE COMMUNAL MUSLIM RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST THE SMALL PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND REMAINING AMERICAN MISSIONARIES.

6. THE ECON COUNSELOR SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE POINTS WHICH THE UP MISSION MIGHT BEAR IN MIND. ONE IS THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD AGREE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSURE THE GOP TO CARRY OUT PROMISES MADE BY PRIMIN BHUTTO TO THE PAKISTAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN 1972 WITH RESPECT TO MAINTAINING CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN THE TAKEN-OVER SCHOOLS. THIS ISSUE, THE COUNSELOR SAID, WOULD LIKELY BE VIEWED BY WASHINGTON AS A PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR. THE SECOND POINT WAS THAT THE USG HAS HISTORICALLY RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY TO NATIONALIZE FOREIGN PROPERTY WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES, BUT THE USG ASKED

THAT IN SUCH AN EVENT PROMPT AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION BE PAID TO THE AFFECTED AMERICAN OWNERS. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE UP MISSION HAS A LEGITIMATE NATIONALIZATION GRIEVANCE, AND WISHED MONETARY COMPENSATION, IT COULD LAY ITS CASE WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR HELP.

7. THE THIRD POINT MADE BY THE ECON COUNSELOR WAS THAT THE 1974 TRADEACT CONTAINED A NATIONALIZATION PROVISION WHICH MIGHT AFFECT PAKISTAN'S ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP TREATMENT, THE COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THAT DEPT. OFFICIALS WERE PLANNING TO CONSULT UP CHURCH HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY ON THIS ISSUE, AND THAT THE EMBASSY HAD JUST INSTRUCTED CONGEN LAHORE TO MAKE A PARALLEL APPROACH TO REV. TEBBE AND MR. LOTZE.

8. WILSON SAID THAT THE TRADE ACT WAS A NEW FACTOR OF WHICH THEY HAD BEEN UNAWARE AND THIS WOULD COMPEL THE UP CHURCH TO DECIDE WHAT IT REALLY WANTED. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO NEW YORK CITY. WILSON SAID THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE BACK IN HIS NEW YORK OFFICE ON MONDAY MARCH 3, WHERE HE OR HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR, OSCAR MCCLLOUD, COULD BE REACHED ON TELEPHONE 870-3135. THEIR NEW YORK ADDRESS IS 475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE ZIP 10027. HE CLAIMED THAT HE AND MR. MCCLLOUD WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEPT. ON THIS MATTER. THE CHURCH OFFICIALS WERE GIVEN COPIES OF TITLE V OF THE TRADE ACT AND THE NAME OF GORDON JONES, NEA/PAB AS A DEPT CONTACT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION, TRADE LAW, CHURCH SCHOOLS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 25721  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY: GSP ELIGIBILITY  
**TAGS:** EINV, ETRD, PK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006